

How and where can I apply?

Apply for the Special Assistance In-Home Program at your county department of social services. You may send someone to represent you. Please bring the following items, if you have them, when you apply at the county department of social services:

- Income information that includes recent pay stubs, Social Security, SSI, or Veteran's Administration (VA) award letters;
- Savings and checking account information that includes passbooks, checkbooks, bank statements, etc;
- Information on assets such as property, stocks, bonds, IRAs, annuities, and trust funds owned by you and or your spouse;
- Social Security card or other verification of Social Security number;
- Proof of age (birth certificate or other); and
- Insurance

After all of your information is provided, expect the application process to take up to 45 days for aged individuals and 60 days for disabled individuals. Processing time varies depending on how long it takes to verify an applicant's information.

What is the penalty for fraud?

Fraud is committed when an applicant, recipient or someone acting on behalf of an applicant or recipient knowingly gives incorrect or misleading information to get public assistance. Recipients must report any change in their financial situation that may affect their eligibility within five days of the change. The penalty for fraud is repayment of the money and can include a fine, imprisonment, and/or termination from the program.



Division of Aging and Adult Services
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Division of Aging and Adult Services

An Alternative To Adult Care Living For Eligible Adults



The State/County Special Assistance In-Home Program For Adults

Do you need rest home care but want to remain living at home? Do you now live in an adult care home, such as a rest home or a mental health group home, but want to return home? Need help paying for this care? Read further to see if you are eligible for the Special Assistance In-Home Program.

Due to increased funding by the General Assembly in the 2005 session, the number of counties now providing this service has grown to 72 out of 100 counties in North Carolina.



Can I get help paying my expenses at home?

For older or disabled adults who need adult home care but want to remain living at home, the State/County Special Assistance In-Home Program helps with living expenses such as food, shelter, clothing and other daily necessities. The checks are sent monthly to eligible individuals living in a private living arrangement.

Am I eligible?

Low income people are potentially eligible if they are 65 or older, or if they are disabled according to Social Security guidelines and between the ages of 18 and 65.

All applicants must:

- Need adult care home level of care as verified by a doctor but desire to live in a private living setting
- Be a U.S. citizens or qualified alien
- Meet income and asset requirements
- Qualify for Medicaid separately
- Be a resident of NC, living in a participating county
- Meet all other Special Assistance eligibility requirements

What are the income and asset requirements?

Special Assistance in an adult care home is available to applicants with a monthly income of \$1,163.49 or less and who have savings and assets worth less than \$2,000.

Examples of countable income include wages, retirement benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Veteran's benefits. Examples of assets that are counted are property, cash, savings, checking accounts, stocks, bonds, annuities, some IRAs, and the cash value of life insurance policies. Some assets that are not counted are a home used as a primary residence, personal

belongings, life insurance with a cash value of \$1,500 or less, burial plots and burial insurance. One essential vehicle is excluded as a resource if it is the primary mode of transportation.

How do I qualify for Medicaid?

Eligibility for Medicaid for the Special Assistance In-Home Program is not automatic as it is for Special Assistance in adult care homes. Recipients in private living arrangements must be determined eligible for Medicaid separately. If an applicant for the In-Home Program is not already receiving Medicaid, they must apply for it and be found eligible.

Medicaid income and asset limits:

	Individual	Couple
Income	\$ 817	\$ 1,100
Assets	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,000

How much will my Special Assistance check be?

The maximum amount a Special Assistance recipient can receive in aid is set by the General Assembly. The maximum amount of an individual's check is determined by taking the maximum rate, subtracting the individual's total monthly countable income, then multiplying by 75%.

\$1,164	Maximum Rate (Maintenance Amount)
- (varies)	Total countable monthly income
= \$	Multiply by 0.75
= \$	Maximum SA Payment Amount

Note: The actual payment amount may be less than the maximum SA Payment Amount if it is appropriate, depending upon the assessment and service plan completed by an Adult Services case manager.

Each individual is entitled to \$20 income exclusion, as well as \$46 in personal needs allowance. For most kinds of earned income, there is an initial \$65 exclusion and ½ of the remainder of their income is counted.